



State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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August 21, 2008

Re: Clarification of use of Retroreflective Sheeting for Work Zone Devices

The Department has received many inquiries about the change in the requirements for retroreflective sheeting used for work zone devices. Devices include, but are not limited to, work zone signing, channelizing devices, delineation, and barricades. The intent of this letter is to clarify those questions.

At the April 2007 Standards Committee Meeting, the Standards Committee approved a change in Standard Specification 02891, Traffic Signs. In Part 2, Products, Article 2.1, Materials, Paragraph F, Retroreflective Sheeting, Subparagraph 3, there was a change in the type of sheeting allowed. All retroreflective sheeting used for new devices will meet or exceed the minimum requirements of ASTM Type IX sheeting. This requirement had an implementation date of May 10, 2007. After this date, all new devices were required to meet this specification.

We have received a request to clarify the use of existing devices. While all newly manufactured devices are required to meet the current sheeting requirements, the Department recognizes the investment that vendors and contractors have made in their existing devices. Therefore, we will allow the use of existing devices manufactured prior to May 10, 2007, with the following conditions:

1. All sheeting used for devices manufactured on or after May 10, 2007, will meet the current requirements for retroreflective sheeting as outlined in Standard Specification 02891, Traffic Signs.
2. Devices with retroreflective sheeting manufactured prior to May 10, 2007, may be used in work zones until December 31, 2011, provided they are in good condition and meet all other project requirements. After this date, these devices will no longer be allowed for use.
3. All sheeting used for devices used on or after January 1, 2012, will be required to meet the minimum requirements for retroreflective sheeting as outlined in Standard Specification 02891, Traffic Signs.
4. These requirements apply only to projects and highways under the jurisdiction of the Department, including construction and maintenance projects, permitted operations, and utility work.

For further information, please contact Mr. Michael Donovan, Transportation Safety Specialist, at [mdonivan@utah.gov](mailto:mdonivan@utah.gov) or 801-965-4376.

Thank you,

John Leonard, PE, PTOE  
Traffic and Safety Operations Engineer